> The base and calumnious result of this star-chamber proceeding is transmitted to the government! It is filed as an everlasting record against me in the archives of my native country! It is emblazoned by the Commissioners on their minutes to render my professional infamy as lasting as the Asylum. (42)

In his imagination the archive was co-existent with the Asylum itself, both linked to the arbitrary power of the Commissioners. Thus he refers to the Rev. Commissioner Roaf's charge, whose eternal archival existence outrages him so much, that he spent only fifteen minutes per visit, as "the natural fruit of the star-chamber, where the evidence was garbled, perverted, and suppressed, with barely light enough to render `the darkness visible'" (43). The "Star-Chamber" is the locus of the generation of corrupt texts, the archive is the locus of their preservation as part of the record, if not indeed the "truth." Finally the asylum itself is identified with "Star Chamber" and archive as another more or less permanent confining space, but illustrating in its peculiar way the highly uncertain value -- and unpredictable nature -- of what it confined.

When Dr. Park decided to reinforce his authority in the asylum with his authority in the archive, he inaugurated a tradition. It would have been some compensation to him that the written record proved more lasting. All that remains of his asylum is what is contained, more or less bracketed, in his own pamphlet. It testifies to how passionately he fought one kind of hieratic and textual authority with another equally hieratic and textual but ostensibly referentially based in the terrible reality of madness.[viii] This, more than any mere chronological anteriority, makes him a truly exemplary asylum doctor.

(Public Outcry and Political Partisanship)

The first Medical Superintendent of the permanent Toronto Asylum, Dr. John Scott from Strathbane, Ireland, was appointed in January, 1850. That Dr. Scott was a son-in-law of the Rev. Commissioner Roaf indicates the nature of the authority that Dr. Park resisted -- and represented. It also indicates why "differences between the superintendent and the commissioners soon began to crop up" (Burgess 27). On July 2, 1851, an attendant named John Copping charged Scott with "ungentlemanly" references to the Chairman of the Board